

USSN 10/825,898

In the claims:

Claims 1-57 (canceled)

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Please add the following new claims:

58. (new) A method for identifying a compound which decreases the activity of osteoprotegerin binding protein (OPGbp) of Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4) comprising: adding the compound to an assay under conditions where the compound binds OPGbp; and measuring the activity of OPGbp, wherein a decrease in osteoclast formation in the presence of the compound indicates that the compound decreases the activity of OPGbp.

59. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein the compound binds to OPGbp of Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO:4) or a soluble form thereof.

60. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein the compound binds to OPGbp and blocks binding of OPGbp to ODAR.

61. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein the compound binds to an extracellular domain of human OPGbp comprising residues 69-317 as shown in SEQ ID NO:4 or a fragment thereof.

62. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein the activity of OPGbp being measured is osteoclast formation.

63. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein osteoclast formation is measured in a cell culture assay.

64. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein osteoclast formation is measured in vivo.

65. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein a decrease in osteoclast formation results in an increase in bone density.

66. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein the compound increases bone density.

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67. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein the compound decreases bone resorption.

68. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein the compound is an antibody or fragment thereof.

69. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein the compound comprises part or all of the extracellular domain of human ODAR.

70. (new) The method of Claim 43 wherein the compound is derived from human ODAR.